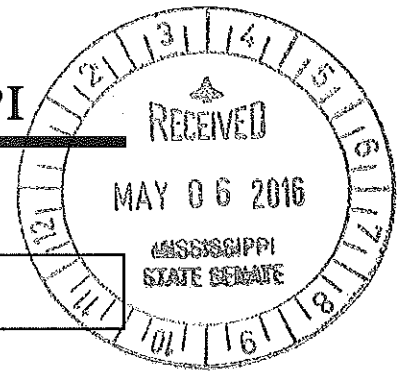


STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
*Office of the Governor*



May 6, 2016

TO THE MISSISSIPPI SENATE AND THE MISSISSIPPI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR'S SIGNING STATEMENT FOR SENATE BILL 2362

I am signing Senate Bill 2362: AN ACT ENTITLED THE "MISSISSIPPI BUDGET TRANSPARENCY AND SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2016"; TO PROVIDE THAT FROM AND AFTER JULY 2, 2016, NO STATE AGENCY SHALL CHARGE ANOTHER STATE AGENCY A FEE, ASSESSMENT, RENT OR OTHER CHARGE FOR SERVICES OR RESOURCES RECEIVED; TO PROVIDE THAT BEGINNING JULY 1, 2016, THE EXPENSES OF CERTAIN STATE SPECIAL FUND AGENCIES SHALL BE DEFRAIDED BY APPROPRIATION OF THE LEGISLATURE FROM THE STATE GENERAL FUND, TO PROVIDE THAT ANY FEES, ASSESSMENTS OR OTHER CHARGES FOR THE SUPPORT OF SAID AGENCIES SHALL BE DEPOSITED INTO THE STATE GENERAL FUND, TO ABOLISH ANY SPECIAL FUNDS CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY FOR THE SUPPORT OF SAID AGENCIES, AND TO PROVIDE CERTAIN LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED BY THE LEGISLATURE FOR THE SUPPORT OF SAID AGENCIES; TO AMEND SECTIONS 75-76-325, 75-76-33, 75-76-81, 75-76-85, 45-11-3, 45-11-5, 45-11-7, 25-53-5, 7-7-3, 25-53-29, 25-53-151, 25-53-171, 31-7-10, 63-9-31, 83-1-27, 83-2-33, 83-2-35, 83-5-17, 83-5-41, 83-5-45, 83-5-69, 83-5-72, 83-5-73, 83-5-77, 83-9-3, 83-17-71, 83-17-519, 83-19-21, 83-21-1, 83-37-29, 83-39-3, 83-73-9, 45-6-15, 53-1-77, 53-11-23, 53-1-7, 53-1-73, 53-3-13, 25-9-141, 7-9-22, 7-3-59, 23-15-5, 23-15-169.7, 29-1-95, 77-3-87, 77-1-6, 77-1-15, 77-1-29, 77-1-53, 77-3-8, 77-3-89, 77-3-503, 77-3-507, 77-3-509, 77-7-127, 77-7-333, 77-7-339, 77-7-337, 77-9-489, 77-11-201, 99-18-1, 27-19-179, 11-46-17, 71-3-100, 7-5-61, 25-9-119 AND 27-104-103, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY THERETO; TO AMEND SECTION 99-19-73, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT ALL TRAFFIC AND CRIMINAL ASSESSMENTS SHALL BE DEPOSITED INTO THE STATE GENERAL FUND; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

Senate Bill 2362 is entitled the "Mississippi Budget Transparency and Simplification Act of 2016". The bill is designed and intended to change sixteen state agencies from special fund agencies to general fund agencies and to remove the authority for some state agencies to charge other state agencies fees, assessments, rents or other charges for services or resources received.

The passage of the bill necessitated the conformance of the appropriation bills of the sixteen state agencies named in Section 3 of Senate Bill 2362, and also the appropriation bills of all state

agencies charged for services or resources by one or more other state agencies. As a result, most interagency billings will no longer be allowed.

Transparency and simplification of the state budget are admirable goals which I support, and I am hopeful that Senate Bill 2362 will accomplish those purposes. The conference report on the bill was filed April 13 and adopted on April 15, and since then until today my staff and many state agency heads have labored to determine the effects of the bill. This includes the potential loss of federal funds unless a new system can be developed to satisfy the appropriate federal agencies and may affect state agencies' ability to recover services provided to users or the public.

Hopefully, these situations will not come to fruition or be consequential. I acknowledge that state agencies will face some challenges as a result of the budget decreases necessitated by shortfalls in revenue collections. Regrettably, those problems are unavoidable and will have to be met with further belt-tightening. In view of this, if Senate Bill 2362 exacerbates the budget problem and places critical state government services in jeopardy, I will work with legislative leaders to take the necessary action to address these issues and provide solutions.

I have weighed all options in regards to Senate Bill 2362 and have decided to sign it, as the legislature has presented it to me as a new concept to make the state budget more transparent and accountable to the people of this state. As with any new concept, there will be hurdles to clear along the way and problems to address. I have discussed potential problems with state agency heads and legislative leaders and prefer to stay the course outlined by the legislature as opposed to starting the appropriations process over. I have instructed a working group, consisting of lawyers, accountants, and budget experts, to review the perceived issues with Senate Bill 2362 and the fiscal year 2017 budget. If they are unable to resolve issues that arise before the next legislative session, I will take action to address them.

Therefore, I am signing Senate Bill 2362, Regular Session of 2016, for the reasons set forth in this signing statement.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Bryant", with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

Phil Bryant  
GOVERNOR